

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### **Congratulations, 'WT E-Mail Express'!**

Bravo for the new *WT E-Mail Express* on-line! This is a wonderful encouragement to receive in my e-mail box. I am glad the *World Tribune* is joining the 21st century!... As there is much on the Internet that is created by other parties (some of whom are reliable and some who aren't), I am sure this step the *World Tribune* is taking will deter any unreliable sources from making their way into an innocent member's e-mail. There is much out there from the Nikken sect and from people who are just plain negative. Putting the *World Tribune* on to the Internet is a powerful and positive move that I'm sure will grow into a major encouragement and protection for SGI members around the world.

I work in an information technology department for an international corporation and it is very nice to have this publication at my desk. It's private, and it definitely gives me the feeling of connectedness to the kosen-rufu movement in America.

— LINDA K. JOHNSON,  
Van Nuys, Calif.

### **Gratitude for Spanish Pages**

Every week I enjoy all that the *World Tribune* brings, and I would like to express my gratitude for the Spanish pages. When I read these pages, I feel a deep connection with the Latin American members, especially the Argentinian members. I used to talk on the phone with my best friend, Valeria, about your articles. She lives in Argentina, the country where I am from, and was the person who introduced me to this amazing Buddhism.

I want to say thanks to Maria Panigua from New Jersey, whose experience encouraged me to keep going, keep fighting and not to give up my dream to become an American citizen. I am going through the same experience right now and let me tell you, it is not easy at all. But I have the Gohonzon in my life, the support of the SGI members and a wonderful Argentinian husband who started practicing six months ago. I would like to talk to Maria about our commonalities perhaps by phone or mail.

— LAURA LAGO,  
Las Vegas

### **Greetings From Bolivia**

Greetings and best wishes. I congratulate the Jan. 1 issue of the *World Tribune*, which was well done and interesting, especially the experiences. I read Amy Stone's experience, and I would like to know about her health, and her relationship with her partner and her parents. She is an example for SGI members. I would like to encourage her to continue practicing to the extent possible.

Here in Bolivia, I talk to the leaders about SGI-USA. We are also working for kosen-rufu in Bolivia, and making efforts for SGI President Ikeda to come to our country. I am chanting to unite with you and SGI members from around the world. As Nichiren Daishonin wrote, "All disciples and believers of Nichiren should chant Nam-myohorenge-kyo with one mind (*itai doshin*)...."

Without any further ado, I bid you farewell, with sincere wishes for the attainment of kosen-rufu in the U.S.A.

— JOSE SALOMON  
VARGAS MORON,  
SGI-Bolivia

### **Buddhism and Psychotherapy**

Thanks for Mike Lisagor's article on how therapy has helped in supporting him and his Buddhist practice and overcoming problems (Feb. 12). I had a similar situation. A family member was manic depressive and causing a lot of stress. I chanted and got help from a psychologist. It kept me strong and things are normal now....

— PHILIP RAY,  
Ventura, Calif.

### **Thanks for the Changes**

I complained about the new logo, so it is only right that I should compliment you about the new paper stock, color photos and other changes. And I've gotten used to the new logo. Keep up the good work.

— LARRY MARGOLIS,  
Santa Monica, Calif.

How many times have I been so moved by an article or related experience or study point in the *World Tribune* and somehow been so inspired by it that I could chant a much higher quality of daimoku and subsequently make a joyful, spiritual and oftentimes concrete, physical breakthrough?! I cannot even COUNT them! How many times have I thought, "I really need to write a thank you letter to the WT staff about this," yet regrettably, NEVER did?! I am certain there are countless others like me out there who have gone through the same things about the *World Tribune*! So please never stop the wonderful efforts you are making for the WT! You are the ones who are helping so many of us change our karma, overcome our pain, find something to appreciate, and reach out to others for the sake of adding to the flow of a true peace in this world! NEVER STOP!! I could not continue practicing this Buddhism without the *World Tribune*. How deep is my gratitude? DEEP in my daimoku — for your continued success and happiness!

— JENNY HODGINS,  
Japan

### **Set Ourselves Free!**

In "Set Yourself Free!" (Jan. 15), Deborah Goodwin talks about the misuse and abuse of our freedoms in America and indicates "the rising furor that decries our military agenda in Iraq" as an example of this. The only "rising furor" I am aware of concerning Iraq centers on the behavior of Saddam Hussein, and his documented history of the plunder, pillage and murder of his own people, and his fanatical determination to produce chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction to be used against people in other countries.

As followers of Nichiren Daishonin, it is our vital mission to pray for and take action to establish world peace, but, as we have learned in our dealings with the Nikken sect, this sometimes means confronting and refuting evil when we become aware of it. Indeed,

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President Ikeda reminds us “we need to resolutely attack abuses of power that cause people suffering. This is fighting on the side of justice. It is wrong to remain silent when confronted with injustice. Doing so is tantamount to supporting and condoning evil.” Through repeated experience, we know Saddam makes a mockery of dialogue and only responds to threats of military force. If we become silent and passive in the face of his injustice and tyranny, we will be condoning evil. If we truly wish to set ourselves free, we must tap our Buddha wisdom to understand our environment and take responsibility for safe-guarding the people as we work to improve our world.

— DAVID MATTHAU,  
Edgewater, N.J.

### **Thoughts on Ceremony**

The most recent letter by Liz Carter of Boston entitled “Thoughts on Ceremony” (Feb. 12 ) has hit the nail on the head. My rather vague feelings regarding these matters were perfectly voiced by this writer, and my thanks go out to her. Ever your reader,

— STEVE McKNIGHT,  
Olympia, Wash.

*Letters printed here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the SGI-USA or the World Tribune. In the “Mailbox,” we will publish members’ comments, suggestions and questions as they pertain to the World Tribune. Because of volume, not all letters can be printed, but they are all read. All letters are subject to condensation. Please include signature, mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Send letters to “Mailbox,” World Tribune, 606 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1427; or e-mail at wt@sgi-usa.org.*